

## **Family Care Plan for Children**

The purpose of this package is to provide information to military families so they may create a Family Care Plan for their children. All families with children are encouraged to prepare a Family Care Plan for the care of their children.

### **Why does my family need a Care of Children Plan?**

Unforeseen circumstances may require your friends or family to be able to make care-based decisions on your part as parent. These circumstances are not only associated with deployments or being a single parent, but come up in everyday life. Preparation of a Care Plan can make the difference between a crisis and an organized response to difficult situations.

### **What is a Power of Attorney for Care of Children?**

A **Power of Attorney for Care of Children** allows someone to stand in for a child's parent(s) and authorize medical care for your child (ren), deal with school issues, etc. When a spouse is deployed, it is a good idea for the spouse who is home with the children to have a Power of Attorney for Care of Children naming someone in the local area to act in their place in case of an emergency. If the parent must leave the children with someone while they travel or if they are somehow unable to make decisions and act as a parent for the child, the person named would be able to step in and care for the child. Parents may want to have a Power of Attorney for someone local and also for a relative or someone who may not be close by, but who would come to care for the children in an emergency.

The Marine Corps requires that single parents with custody of children and dual active duty parents have a Power of Attorney for Care of Children as part of a family care plan. **A Power of Attorney for Care of Children does not transfer legal custody of the children to another party.** Any custodial parent giving children to someone other than the non-custodial parent for a deployment period with a Power of Attorney of Family Care Plan should make a visit to Legal Assistance to consult with an attorney.

Initial registration for Children, Youth, and Teens Programs (childcare) requires the military sponsor's signature. When the Marine or Sailor is unavailable to sign the required documents, the spouse may sign the documents by presenting a notarized General Power of Attorney.

In order to get a Power of Attorney for Care of Children, visit Legal Assistance, Bldg. 1514 between 0800-1100 and 1300-1500 Monday through Thursday or 0800-1100 Friday. You will be asked to pick up a blank form, fill it out, and have it notarized. You may also visit a class on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 1300 where a representative from Legal will explain and notarize these Powers of Attorney, along with General and Special Powers of Attorney, and California Statutory Wills.

**Suggested Use of Forms included in this Package:**

Emergency Contact Information Sheet- To assist your designated emergency point of contact, please attach a completed Emergency Contact Sheet to each *Power of Attorney for the Care of Children*. Providing your child's personal information to the designated provider will assist in the quality care of your child (ren). The Emergency Information Sheet should be updated when changes occur, or when renewing your POA.

Emergency Contact Card - It is very important to have an emergency contact card in your wallet, in the glove compartment of your vehicle, in your gym bag, diaper bag or on the refrigerator. During an emergency situation the information that is provided on an emergency contact card will assist medical and emergency personnel in arranging care for you or your child (ren).

*Consider this example:*

You are an athlete that regularly jogs, bicycles, plays tennis or golf, or goes to the gym. One **In Case of EMERGENCY** Notification Card in your gym bag, on a lanyard, or in your golf bag will help ensure that medical and emergency personnel will have access to the information when necessary.

For your children: With your emergency contact information on a card for your children, you can hand it to a relative or babysitter temporarily caring for your child(ren).

Exceptional Family Member (EFMP) Emergency Responder Form- EFMP families who live aboard MCAGCC and have family members with extreme medical or developmental needs should use this emergency responder form. This is a voluntary program to assist the Provost Marshal's Office (PMO), Fire Dept and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with a family member needing advanced life support or other high level needs during an emergency.

Power of Attorney for the Care of Children- Feel safe knowing that your child (ren) are in the care of someone you and your spouse know and trust. Providing designated persons entrusted with the care of your child (ren) with a notarized POA will allow the caretaker to deal with educational and medical issues that may arise. It is recommended that your family designate two local care providers and one non-local care provider. Please ensure that one of your care providers can provide long-term care for your child (ren) if the need arises.